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REVIEWS

Geology and Paleontology of the Raton Mesa and Other Regions in Colorado and New Mexico. By Willis T. Lee and F. H. Knowlton. U.S. Geological Survey, Professional Paper No. 101, 1917. Pp. 450, pls. 103, figs. 16.

This interesting paper presents many details concerning the geology of the areas indicated by the title. To the general reader the large interest of the paper centers in the correlation of disputed formations in the several regions discussed, and in the attempt to establish their time-relations to formations elsewhere. Some of the significant conclusions are the following:

"The coal-bearing rocks of the Raton Mesa region which have formerly been referred to the Laramie constitute two distinct formations separated in time by a period of erosion." The lower of these two formations (Vermejo) contains a Montana flora, and "is more closely related to the Mesa Verde of western New Mexico than to any other formation we have examined." The coal-bearing rocks of the Canyon City field are correlated with the Vermejo, which is thought to be approximately equivalent in age to the Fox Hills formation of the Denver basin.

"The upper coal-bearing formation of the Raton Mesa region, to which the name Raton is here applied, is Eocene in age and contains a flora distinct from that of the Laramie of the Denver basin, but similar to that of the post-Laramie formations of that basin and to that of the Eocene Wilcox group of the Gulf coast."

"The unconformity between the Vermejo and Raton formations represents a time interval comparable to that separating the Laramie from the Arapahoe of the Denver basin."

"The coal-bearing rocks of the Cerrillos, Hagan, Tijeras, and Rio Puerco fields are essentially equivalent in age to the Mesa Verde of the San Juan basin."

The plants of the formations described in this paper are discussed by Mr. F. H. Knowlton, who indicates that the flora of the Raton formation indicate "a relatively moist, warm situation, whose temperature did not fall much if any below 42°F," and that the floral hiatus between the

REVIEWS 479

Vermejon and Raton floras can be explained only by the lapse of a very long period of time. Specifically Mr. Knowlton, on the basis of plant fossils, correlates the Raton formation with the Wilcox formation, and "probably with the Midway formation of the Gulf region."

The paper tends to confirm the conclusion which has been growing for many years that the Raton and equivalent formations are of Eocene—not of Cretaceous—age.

The general conclusion is reached that the Raton formation is essentially equivalent to the Arapahoe, the Denver, the Dawson, the Fort Union, the Wilcox, and perhaps the Midway formations.

R. D. S.

My Reminiscences. By RAPHAEL PUMPELLY. New York: Henry Holt & Company, 1918. 2 vols. Pp. 844, maps, ills.

In these two volumes the reader will find a most fascinating story of the very remarkable adventures and varied experiences which were crowded into the long life of this eminent American geologist. As the central figure was an inveterate traveler, roaming over a large portion of the globe when traveling was vastly different from what it now is, the work is first and foremost a book of travel.

After studying at Freiberg and taking long vacation rambles through the mountains of Corsica and various other parts of Europe as the fancy struck him, Pumpelly returned to the United States and in 1860 began his professional work at the Santa Rita mines in Arizona. The Apache terror was then at its height, and Pumpelly alone of five successive superintendents of the mine was not murdered. Chance then took him to Japan, where in the employ of the Japanese government he conducted geological investigations and introduced certain improvements into Japanese methods of mining. It was but one step more to China, where a year and a half were devoted to private travels and geological exploration for the imperial government—experiences and researches which are vividly sketched. For the return journey to America several alternative routes were open, but with the true instinct of adventurous travel the author chose a winter journey across Mongolia and Siberia to Europe by saddle-horse and sleigh.

In our own country the author's most significant explorations were those in the Lake Superior region between 1867 and 1871, when the Lake Superior iron ores were beginning to attract attention. These reminiscences are of special interest for the light they throw on the discovery and beginnings of the Menominee and Gogebic iron ranges. It was here in